

LAJOIE DAY FOR OPENING OF BASEBALL SEASON HERE—STEEPLECHASE NEXT SATURDAY

"LAJOIE DAY" TOMORROW TO OPEN BASEBALL SEASON

Welcome to Veteran Star Planned, With Elaborate Ceremonies for First Game of Year—Red Sox to Play Athletics—Comment on Sports Topics.

Tomorrow is Lajoie Day. Connie Mack has so arranged it. The opening of the American League baseball season at Shibe Park is to be marked by celebrations welcoming the veteran star back to the fold. The return of the great batsman and second baseman is to be hailed with song and cymbal. The gates of Shibe Park will be opened at 1 o'clock, and the first ball of the season will be tossed from the pitcher's box at 3 o'clock. Prior to the opening of hostilities between the Athletics and the Boston Red Sox the players of both clubs will march around the field. At 1 o'clock the pennant, emblematic of the American League championship of 1914, will be raised. Starting at 1 o'clock, the First Regiment Band, under direction of Professor Kendis, will give the following concert: March, "Home Run".....Kendis Selection from "Chin-Chin".....Carroll Caprice, "The Snow Queen".....Sampe Songs of the Day.....Snyder (a) "William Penn D'Amour".....Sileau (b) "Poor Pauline".....Berlin Melodies from "Sweethearts".....Herbert Waltz, "Cecile".....McKee Intermezzo, "Pearl of the Pyrenees".....Frank Songs from "The Girl From Utah".....Primi March, "Wrap Me Up in a Bundle".....Adorans

Bush to Open Against Red Sox Manager Mack today had not decided upon his line-up for the opening game, but it is probable that Joe Bush will be the pitching selection, with Schang behind the bat. The outfield shifts will depend upon the pitchers selected by Manager Carrigan, of the Boston club. As yet a choice for third base has not been made. Kopf is still too ill, according to latest reports, to fill the position at this time. The showing made yesterday in Brooklyn by Eddie Murphy may draw him to the assignment. This will send either Shag Thompson or Jimmy Walsh to the outfield. In all probability Manager Mack will keep Oldring at his old post in left field for the opener. It is hardly probable that he will name one of his recruits for the "hot corner." In all the speculation on the subject of a third baseman there are still many who believe that Frank Baker will call at the park, but it is not likely that he will slip into a uniform and settle down around third base. The fans would not object, and Connie Mack's arms are still open to the wayward slinger.

Athletics Set Terrific Batting Pace If the Athletics keep up the batting pace set yesterday in Brooklyn there will not be a very heated argument over the American League pennant. A total of 16 safeties, many for extra bases, were compiled against the veteran team and three of the Dodgers' recruits. True, the Mack clan were forced to extend themselves to win over the poor pitching of their own recruits. But they did it. Veltz was as wild as Wyckoff ever was in his most unrestrained days, and it required a fusillade to outdistance the Brooklyn aggregation. The batting of Eddie Murphy was the sensation of the game. It is not often that a player completes a day with a perfect average, but it was Murphy's bat that won the game for the Philadelphia club. He was strongly aided by Oldring, Crane, a youngster, also had a good day with the stick. The Athletics showed excellent form, considering the fact that many of the players were out of their regular positions.

Willard Could Lose Title in a No-decision Fight A question similar to that raised regarding the Williams-Louisiana bout here has arisen among fight fans. Some followers of the ring believe a champion cannot lose his title in a no-decision bout. They are wrong. For instance, a fan called the Sports Department of the EVENING LEDGER and asked if Jim Coffey would be recognized as the heavyweight champion of the world if he knocked out Jess Willard in a six or ten round bout. He would. Not only would he be recognized as the titleholder, but he would, in fact, be the logical champion. Relative to the Louisiana-Williams match, as mentioned in this column before, the Baltimorean would not have lost his titular honors in the event of a knockout. Why? Because the fighters did not box at the legitimate bantamweight limit, 116 pounds, each tipping the beam at 118 pounds.

"Ragging" Ball Players a Poor Sort of Sport For the last two weeks a special committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association has been striving to raise the standard of intercollegiate baseball ethics. It has in mind several reforms, among them being the banishing of the professional coach from the players' bench, the stopping of the incessant chatter between the players and the addressing of impertinent remarks from the players of one side to their opponents, more particularly offensive remarks intended to rattle a pitcher or a batter. Yale, Harvard and Princeton have a triangular agreement for the enforcement of all these desirable reforms in the games they play each other. Virtually all the other colleges and universities of the country have received reports from this special committee, with the request that they also institute these reforms, but they have made little headway. Viewed from the standpoint of these reformers, the Pennsylvania-Swarthmore game on Saturday would have been rather offensive in several innings. The members of the Swarthmore team, in particular, kept up an incessant chatter, supposedly to encourage each other, particularly their pitcher, although he needed less encouragement than his team-mates. It is undoubtedly true that if college players could hear themselves they would confine themselves strictly to their game. It is not done in football, track athletics, rowing, tennis and other outdoor sports. So why should it be tolerated in college baseball? It would seem that the Pennsylvania baseball authorities would do their supporters a favor by taking steps not only to curb the tendency in their own players and rooters, but in letting their opponents understand that such tactics are out of date in college baseball.

College Golf and Tennis Tournaments Unfair Now that all the Eastern colleges are beginning their season of dual tennis and golf meets it is pertinent to ask why the associations which govern these sports do not decide their respective championships on the basis of meets won and lost, as is done in basketball, swimming, etc., rather than through tournaments, which they hold in the fall before most of the colleges open. As things now stand there are a series of dual meets in the spring, with tournaments in the following September to decide the team and individual championships. For a number of reasons it would seem the part of wisdom to eliminate the fall tournaments and the spring dual meets, and to have a single championship of the intercollegiate strength. The fairest way to decide the championship would be to have a series of round robin meets. Holding the tournament in September makes it impossible for some of the colleges to be represented, in addition to which only those men who have had leisure to practice all summer are able to do themselves justice. The same thing is true in the case of the tennis meets, which are held in the fall. It would be far better for both sports to have the championships decided as a result of the spring meets.

WATCH BOSTON BRAVER, SAYS MANAGER MORAN "Any ball club that wins four straight from the Philadelphia Athletics and takes the world's series in 12 or more games should be considered seriously as having a fairly good chance to spurt home ahead of the other National League teams in the pennant race. "As to the Giants' chances, Perritt is a good pitcher and McGraw has need of all the pitching strength he can get. As for Robert, I don't know whether or not he will help much."—Pat Moran, manager of the Phillies.

BYRON AND ORTH UMPIRE FIRST GAME FOR PHILS President Tener Instructs His Arbiters on Rules. NEW YORK, April 18.—John K. Tener, president of the National League, held a meeting with his official staff of umpires at the league headquarters here. President Tener went over the rules with his staff, explaining ambiguous points and laying down a code for the strict enforcement of the rules this year. The following umpires were in attendance: Robert Emslie, William Brown, Charles Richter, Albert Orth, William Brown, William Hart and George Cockill. Mr. Tener, who lives in the Park West, was not present. The following umpires and assignments for opening games follows: At New York, Richter; at St. Louis, Brown; at Philadelphia, Orth; at Cincinnati, Brown; at Chicago, Richter; at Boston, Orth; at Cleveland, Brown. A special dispensation will be granted to infielders to use a ball for practice purposes prior to the start of each inning, the rule to be in effect up to May 15. This rule was made for the purpose of allowing the men to warm up before the start of each inning during a period that is more or less cold. After May 15, however, President Tener believes the weather will be warm enough to eliminate such practice and the former rule prohibiting the same will be strictly enforced.

Maupome Wins in Detroit DETROIT, Mich., April 18.—Pierre Maupome, Philadelphia, defeated Martin Masley of Detroit, 10 to 18, in a 24-inning Interstate Track-Chestnut Hill League match here last night.

SLUGGING STARS IN BROOKLYN FRAY



GOLDEY NINE TO PLAY WILMINGTON SCHOOL

Collegians Entertain School-boys in Initial Contest Tomorrow. Wilmington High School will open its baseball season this week. It will play the strong team of Goldey College in that city tomorrow afternoon and the game is expected to prove interesting. The team which will compose the track team of the Wilmington High School will be picked after trials have been held next Saturday. The team has succeeded in arranging a dual meet with Chester to be held at Wawaset Park June 11. It has been finally decided to hold a shoot at the grounds of the du Pont Trap-shooting Club, April 21, between A. B. Richardson and W. M. Ford, representing the du Pont team and incidentally representing Delaware, while Charles Newcomb and George McCarty will shoot for Pennsylvania. High school girls have decided to add hockey and tennis to the sports for girls at that institution. The girls have elected Miss Avis Bishop manager of the basketball team. To mark the tenth anniversary of the entering of the Salesianum into the school athletic field in Wilmington, a minstrel show for the benefit of the athletic department will be held in Odd Fellows' Hall tomorrow. Members of the Delaware Horse Show Association are now preparing for the usual matinee races which are held each summer at Wawaset Driving Park. The races will begin in May.

LEHIGH ELECTS MAT CAPTAIN Kirkuff, of Wilkes-Barre, a Junior, to Head Team. SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., April 13.—Elliott L. Kirkuff, of Wilkes-Barre, was elected captain of the Lehigh University wrestling team for 1915 here by a close margin in a spirited contest, in which George Sawbelle, this year's captain, was not a candidate. Kirkuff is a junior, a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and wrestling in the 115-pound class. M. B. Gunn, of Burlington, N. J., was chosen manager.

AUTOMOBILE OUTPUT FOR FIRST QUARTER A RECORD Motortruck and Passenger Car Demand Has Been Unusual. Reports received at the recent directors' meeting of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce indicated that the first three months of 1915 would supply record figures for the manufacture and sale of automobiles. Not since the motorcars but in passenger cars also the demand has exceeded that of any previous similar period. The total freight car shipments of automobiles for March alone were 18,117 cars, compared with 18,117 cars for the same month last year, an increase of almost 25 per cent, and January and February also showed an advance over the figures for the previous year, with the three months showing greater shipments of cars than for any three months in the history of the industry. Manufacturers generally look upon this as further evidence of the strong position which the motorcar now holds as a factor in our everyday life. The successful operation of the so-called jitney bus was mentioned, reports indicating that it is making rapid progress in the cities throughout the country, and that the word "jitney" has become a household name. The word "jitney" meaning a nickel, although in some cities a 10-cent fare is charged. It has materially increased the demand for second-hand cars of the type used principally in the work, and thus added to the sale of new cars.

"FANNING" WITH GRANTLAND RICE So Clear the Road Yes, here she comes—the Grand Old Game—The old Hip-Hip—and all the rest—Wherefore the wings are now flying—And frenzied grips the bulging breast; Where Hope Eternal upturns springs—Until about the tenth of May, Whereat the old-time April rings—And gives Next Year another play. Yes, here she comes—the Grand Old Game—Some institution is the phrase; The essence of all hectic fuff, And yet the dream of barren days, Since Boston fought her way to fame As others took the easy path—You've counted seconds till it came; So now go to it—let'er rip.

Two Lucky Commonwealths If this early April dope holds up the luckiest city in America is Boston, with Chicago second. Boston has the two pennant favorites—and Chicago has at least two flag contenders with a fair chance to win. The Case of Miller Huggins Another citizen who will bear inspection is Miller Huggins, of the Cardinal war zone. In 1913 the Cards finished last. In 1914 they finished third and at the close looked as strong as the Braves. But since that date they have lost Perritt, Wingo and Magee. Becher will take Magee's place tidily enough, but Perritt and Wingo will be missed. Yet Huggins has enough good ball players left in Snyder, Sales, Doak, Griner, Miller, Wilson and Dolan to keep St. Louis in the summer hunt.

The Wherefore of the Thrill The opening of the season means more to us than we first thought. Not because of any abnormal thrill, but because we don't believe we could possibly wait another day to hear some fan give a war whoop when an Indian came to bat, or to hear a fan yell "Sign him" when a spectator catches a foul poked into the stand. These are two original delicacies of humor that we can do without no longer—and which undoubtedly account for the deep yearning we have to see the first ball pitched. Then again it may mean nothing in your young life to hear some wit in the stand, who is peevish at the umpire, yell "Foul—foul" when a single is driven over second base. Yet to us it means an Awful Lot; and this is another matter that makes Opening Day so worth while.

"Will Mathewson have a good year?" asks E. J. G. The Mathewson status is now an annual fixture—and about to this effect around the 8th of October: Games won, 25; games lost, 12. Or perhaps it will be 24 won and 13 lost—but the answer will be in this immediate vicinity.

PENN RELAY TEAMS TRAIN FOR BIG MEET

Coach Orton Begins Selections of Runners for Events of April 23 and 24. Eighteen members of the University of Pennsylvania track team are now on training table diet to prepare for the relay races on April 23 and 24, less than two weeks away. Coach Dr. George W. Orton announced this morning that he would hold the first series of trials the latter part of the week for the five teams the Quakers will enter. There are two extra relays this time. Both are medley affairs and will be run on April 23. The only event in which there is not likely to be a trial in the one-mile race on Saturday. It may be said right now that three members will be Ted Meredith, Don Lippincott and Joe Lockwood, with Frank Kauffman as the probable fourth member. It is also certain that this wonderful quartet will be tuned up to try for a new world record. The old mark was made in 1902 when the Harvard team ran the distance in 3:21 2-5. Curiously enough Pennsylvania's strongest rival this year is Harvard again. On account of the medley events it is not likely that there will be any doubling up in Saturday's races. Any man who can run two races will likely run in one of the medley events on Friday and a championship race on Saturday. The Quakers expect to have a fast team for the short medley in which the first two men run 220 yards each, the third man a quarter mile and the fourth 600 yards. It is likely that this team will be composed of Lockwood and Patterson for the two 220 yard dashes, Lippincott for the quarter and Meredith for the half mile. The composition of the two and four mile teams is pretty much of a toss-up now and there is likely to be a great deal of keen competition before the teams are finally selected.

VOLLMER TO ENTER MEET AGAINST PENN SWIMMERS

Columbian Changes Mind and Will Be Here April 17. Coach Kennedy of the Columbia swimming team, yesterday announced that Hal Vollmer would compete for Columbia in the meet with Pennsylvania on April 17, and not for the New York A. C. in the national water polo championships in Chicago on that date. Vollmer gave this decision yesterday, when he was entered in three races in addition to the relay, as well as Charles Lee, The Blue and White hopes to down the Quakers and renew the triple tie between Yale, Penn and Columbia.

TONIGHT—\$100 SHARP—TONIGHT

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STEEPLECHASE EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY

Cup Presented by Mr. Van Rensselaer Will Be Awarded to Winner of Race. The annual point-to-point steeplechase for the Camp Hill Cup, presented by Alexander Van Rensselaer, will be run Saturday at 3:30 p. m. at the country place of A. J. A. Devereux. This is a mile race over a fair hunting course and is a harder course than any other local one. This is an open event, and any horse is eligible to enter, provided men riders to wear racing colors. Entries closed yesterday, and an unusually good field is entered, including several of the horses which started last year in the Harston Cup race. The Mathers have entered Rutland and Poughon. Alexander Brown's Pebbles, Devereux's Conqueror and W. J. Clothier's Meltonere and Tinker Bell are scheduled to start. F. Ambrose Clark, of New York, will run Indicator and "R. & B."

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—SHAG THOMPSON HAS AN EYE FOR THE ARTISTIC, BUT NOT DURING A BALL GAME

